

English 11

Research Paper: Annotated Bibliographies¹

Due: 3/19

Overview: A ***bibliography (works cited page)*** is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "references" or "works cited" depending on the style format you are using. An ***annotation*** is a summary and/or evaluation of a source. Therefore, an ***annotated bibliography*** includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources you are using for your research.

Writing an annotated bibliography is excellent preparation for a research project. Just collecting sources for a bibliography is useful, but when you have to write annotations for each source, you're forced to read each source more carefully; consequently, you begin to read more critically instead of just collecting information. Writing an annotated bibliography can also help you gain a good perspective on what is being said about your topic: By reading and responding to a variety of sources on a topic, you'll start to see what the issues are and what people are arguing about, then you will be able to develop your own point of view.

Format: There are many different ways to write an annotated bibliography. For this assignment, your annotated bibliography will have two parts: The **bibliographic information** of the source (the title, author, publisher, date, etc. in its proper MLA format; this is the exact same thing that will go on your Works Cited page) and the **annotations** for each source written in paragraph form. The annotations should include a few sentences of general summary followed by several sentences assessing the source and explaining how you can fit the work into your larger paper. In your annotations, you should:

- * **Summarize the source.** What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?

- * **Assess.** After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?

- * **Reflect.** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

¹ Adapted from: Bisignani, Dana and Allen Brizee. "Annotated Bibliographies." The Purdue OWL. Purdue U Writing Lab, 17 Apr. 2010. Web. 18 Mar. 2010.

The annotated bibliography you submit to me will contain FIVE sources and should look like this on the page: (Yours should be in 12 pt. font, double-spaced and have 1" margins-- I was just saving room ☺)

Your Name

Teacher's Name

Class Name

Due Date

²Zora Neale Hurston and the African Dialect: An Annotated Bibliography

Anderson, Christa Smith. "Power of Prose: African American Women." *Do You Speak American?* PBS. 2005. Web. 26 May 2010.

This article describes how Zora Neale Hurston's use of African-American dialect and folk speech was received with both praise and criticism. It discusses the use of "voice" driven prose in her works. It will be useful in explaining how her anthropological study of the African dialect was used in her works.

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000. Print.

Zora Neale Hurston wrote this book about a proud, independent African-American woman, Janie Crawford, who searches for a fulfilling relationship and for peace within herself. The book is a primary source (Hurston's actual writing) and will help me understand and evaluate the themes in her works.

Wall, Cheryl. *Women of the Harlem Renaissance*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana State University Press, 1995. Print.

This book profiles three of the women of the Harlem Renaissance, Jesse Fauset, Nella Larson, and Zora Neale Hurston, from a female perspective. Wall presents a detailed discussion of race and gender as they are used in Hurston's works. The author's discussion of Hurston's use of the language of real people will support my research into how Hurston used the African dialect to portray her characters.

Notice that the bibliographic information above is proper MLA format and the annotations are in paragraph form. Note also that the entries are alphabetized by the first word in the bibliographic entry. Please keep in mind that all your text, including the write up beneath the citation, must be indented so that the author's last name is the only text that is flush left.